

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JAKART 02725 070606Z

17

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 050415Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6898

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T JAKARTA 2725

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PO ID

SUBJECT: WHITLAM LETTER TO SUHARTO

REFS: A. CANBERRA 1357; B. STATE 45925

1. AMBASSADOR WOOLCOTT INFORMED ME IN OUR INITIAL MEETING MARCH 4 THAT HE HAD THAT MORNING PRESENTED COPY OF WHITLAM LETTER ON TIMOR TO INDONESIAN CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, GENERAL LATIEF, FOR TRANSMITTAL TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO. HE EXPECTS EARLY REACTION, PROBABLY IN ADVANCE OF PRESENTATION HIS CREDENTIALS WHICH MAY BE AS EARLY AS MARCH 8.

2. IN VIEW FEAKES BRIEFING OF HARROP, WOOLCOTT DID NOT GIVE ME DETAILS NOR DID HE SPECULATE ON POSSIBLE INDONESIAN REACTION TO LETTER.

3. I SAID U.S. SHARED INTEREST IN DISSUADING INDONESIANS FROM PRECIPITATE ACTION BUT AGREED THAT U.S. AND AUSTRALIA SHOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE IN COLLUSION. AT SOME POINT, HOWEVER, U.S. MAY WISH TO PASS ON TO INDONESIANS INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM PORTUGAL REGARDING PORTUGUESE INTENTIONS. THIS WOULD BE DESIGNED TO REINFORCE IMPRESSION THAT PORTUGUESE TIMETABLE IS MUCH MORE EXTENDED THAN INDONESIANS APPEAR TO BELIEVE. WOOLCOTT SAID HE SAW NO OBJECTION BUT FELT PORTUGUESE TIMETABLE OF EIGHT YEARS

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MAY BE UNREALISTIC. THERE IS QUESTION WHETHER THEY CAN

INDEED CONTROL SITUATION FOR THAT LENGTH OF TIME.

4. WE WILL PUT OFF ANY U.S. DISCUSSION IFNRORMATION FROM
PORTUGAL UNTIL WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
SUHARTO'S REACTION TO WHITLAM LETTER.

5. EMBASSY PREPARING COMMENTS ON POINTS RAISED IN PARAS.

6, 7, AND 8 OF CANBERRA'S 1357 FOR SUBMISSION TO DEPART-
MENT PRIOR TO RESPONSE TO AUSTRALIANS.
NEWSOM

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NNN

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